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Letter dated 19 December 2016 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2016. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Volodymyr Yelchenko (Ukraine) as Chair and the representative of Japan as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 2127 (2013), the Security Council imposed a general and complete arms embargo on the Central African Republic and established a committee. The Committee is tasked with, among other things, overseeing the implementation of the sanctions measures. By the same resolution, the Council established a panel of experts working under the direction of the Committee.

4. Subsequently, by its resolution 2134 (2014), the Security Council imposed additional measures, such as a travel ban and an asset freeze on individuals and entities designated by the Committee in accordance with the listing criteria delineated in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the resolution. Both resolutions contain exemptions to the measures and criteria for designation.

5. The Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic consists of five experts. Its mandate was extended most recently in resolution 2262 (2016).

6. Further background information on the Central African Republic sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee held one formal meeting, on 9 September, and met eight times in informal consultations, on 3 February, 9 and 18 March, 29 April, 18 May, 13 June, 5 August and 2 December, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. During the formal meeting, held on 9 September, the Committee met representatives of the permanent missions of the Central African Republic and five States of the region, namely, Chad, Ethiopia, South Africa, the Sudan and Uganda, as well as the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts, who participated via videoconference, to discuss the midterm report of the Panel (S/2016/694) and the challenges faced by the attending Member States in monitoring and implementing the sanctions measures.

9. During the informal consultations held on 3 February, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's progress

update, submitted in accordance with paragraph 17 (d) of resolution 2196 (2015), on the Panel's activities since the presentation of its previous final report in November 2015.

10. During the informal consultations held on 9 March, the Committee held a meeting via videoconference with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to discuss the Mission's arms embargo-monitoring mandate and with a representative of the Mine Action Service to discuss its role in support of weapons and ammunition management in the Central African Republic.

11. During the informal consultations held on 18 March, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its work programme.

12. During the informal consultations held on 29 April, the Committee held a meeting via videoconference with the delegation of the European Union and the European External Action Service regarding the establishment of the European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic, including its mandate, objectives and collaboration with the Committee.

13. During the informal consultations held on 18 May, before the Chair's visit to the Central African Republic from 25 to 27 May, the Committee received updates on the situation in the country from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The Coordinator of the Panel of Experts also presented, via videoconference, the Panel's progress update submitted pursuant to paragraph 23 (d) of resolution 2262 (2016).

14. During the informal consultations held on 13 June, the Chair of the Committee presented a report on his visit to the Central African Republic from 25 to 27 May.

15. During the informal consultations held on 5 August, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's midterm report (S/2016/694), submitted pursuant to paragraph 23 (c) of resolution 2262 (2016), and discussed the recommendations contained therein. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict also briefed the Committee on conflict-related sexual violence in the Central African Republic.

16. During the informal consultations held on 2 December, the Committee received a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report (S/2016/1032), submitted pursuant to paragraph 23 (c) of resolution 2262 (2016), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

17. Following the above-mentioned formal meeting and informal consultations, and in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of the note by the President of the Security Council on the work of the subsidiary organs of the Security Council (S/2016/170), the Committee sent notes verbales to all Member States and issued press releases containing brief summaries of the formal meeting and informal consultations.

18. On 3 March, the Committee revised and adopted its guidelines for the conduct of its work.

19. On 14 March, the Committee issued a note verbale to all Member States relating to the obligations of Member States to impose sanctions measures, cooperation with the Committee and the Panel of Experts on implementation of the travel ban and raising awareness of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas.

20. On 8 July, the Chair of the Committee briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 31 of resolution 2262 (2016) (see S/PV.7734).

21. From 25 to 27 May, the Chair visited the Central African Republic to engage in outreach activities aimed at improving the effective implementation of the sanctions measures imposed in resolutions 2127 (2013) and 2134 (2014), as renewed in resolution 2262 (2016).

22. In 2016, the Committee received implementation reports from three Member States.

23. The Committee sent 86 communications to 23 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

24. Exemptions to the arms embargo are contained in paragraph 1 of resolution 2262 (2016).

25. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 9 to 11 of resolution 2262 (2016).

26. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 2262 (2016).

27. The Committee received and approved one post-facto arms embargo exemption request pursuant to paragraph 1 (g) of resolution 2196 (2015), two arms embargo exemption requests pursuant to paragraph 1 (c) of resolution 2262 (2016), one arms embargo exemption request pursuant to paragraph 1 (d) of resolution 2262 (2016) and six arms embargo exemption requests pursuant to paragraph 1 (h) of resolution 2262 (2016). The Committee also received eight arms embargo notifications pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 2262 (2016), on which no negative decision was taken.

28. The Committee received four asset freeze exemption requests pursuant to paragraph 9 (a) of resolution 2262 (2016). No negative decision was taken on three of them and one request was not approved. The Committee also received one asset freeze notification pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 2262 (2016) and two asset freeze notifications pursuant to paragraph 11, on which no negative decision was taken.

29. The Committee also received one post-facto travel ban exemption request involving the travel of a sanctioned individual, on which no decision has been taken, pending a request for additional information from the requesting Member State.

V. Sanctions list

30. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraphs 7, 12 and 13 of resolution 2262 (2016). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

31. On 7 March, the Committee listed one entity and one individual subject to the measures imposed in paragraph 5 (travel ban) and paragraph 8 (asset freeze) of resolution 2262 (2016). On 23 August, it listed two individuals subject to the same measures and approved an amendment to one existing entry on its sanctions list.

32. On 16 March, the Committee received, through the focal point for delisting, a delisting request on behalf of an entity on its sanctions list. On 15 April, the Committee concluded the process of consideration of the request, with the entity's name remaining on the sanctions list. On 20 December, the Committee received, through the Government of the Central African Republic, a delisting request on behalf of an entity on its sanctions list.

33. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 10 individuals and two entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts

34. On 28 January, in accordance with paragraph 17 (d) of resolution 2196 (2015), the Panel of Experts provided a progress update to the Committee on information obtained during the Panel's visits to the Central African Republic following the presentation of its final report for 2015 (S/2015/936) to the Committee on 20 November 2015.

35. On 25 February, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2262 (2016) on 27 January, the Secretary-General appointed five individuals to serve on the Panel, with expertise in finance and natural resources, regional issues, arms, armed groups and humanitarian issues (S/2016/188). The mandate of the Panel expires on 28 February 2017.

36. On 10 May, in accordance with paragraph 23 (d) of resolution 2262 (2016), the Panel provided a progress update to the Committee.

37. On 19 July, in accordance with paragraph 23 (c) of resolution 2262 (2016), the Panel provided its midterm report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 9 August and issued as a document of the Council (S/2016/694).

38. On 4 November, in accordance with paragraph 23 (c) of resolution 2262 (2016), the Panel provided its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 5 December and issued as a document of the Council (S/2016/1032).

39. On 17 November, in accordance with paragraph 23 (f) of resolution 2262 (2016), the Panel provided four statements of case, together with supporting

evidence, for three individuals and one entity that, in the Panel's view, met the listing criteria delineated in paragraphs 12 and 13 of resolution 2262 (2016).

40. The Panel conducted visits to Belgium, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Qatar, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

41. In pursuance of its mandate, the Panel has, through the Secretariat, sent 69 letters to Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

42. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

43. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 1 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

44. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's midterm report in July and during the preparation of its final report in November.

45. The Panel of Experts participated in the fourth annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 6 and 7 December, organized by the Secretariat. On 8 and 9 December, the Division, in cooperation with United Nations system partners, conducted a workshop on investigative interview techniques for 19 experts from sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels. Two members of the Panel participated therein.

46. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, including through the establishment of a search function for names on sanctions lists, the creation of lists organized by permanent reference number, in addition to those in alphabetical order, and the creation of links in list entries, as appropriate, to INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices.